

FOREIGN ITEMS.

England will await the result of the Porte's negoti-

ations with Serbia and Montenegro before answer-

ing the Russian circular. She also desires to know

the views of other Powers.

Washington, February 16th.—The Electoral Com-

mission's decision of the Louisiana case is almost

universally conceded equivalent to the inauguration

of Hayes and Wheeler, unless they should die be-

fore the 4th of March, or the House should fail to

delay the final count beyond that date. The pos-

sibility of action by the House till Monday, which

now seems probable, will be based upon two motives:

First, a desire to make a more effective protest

for future political effects; and secondly, the visionary

hope that Conkling and a sufficient number of other

Republican Senators may unite with the Democrats

to-morrow to overrule the Commission's decision.

It need hardly be said that there is no tangible re-

ason to expect any such coalition in the Senate. On

the other hand, there is no present probability that

any considerable number of Democrats will consent

to engage in a revolutionary attempt to defeat the

operation of the Electoral Act by factional delays or

silencing. The Presidential contest, therefore, can

now be regarded as practically settled in favor of

the Republicans.

New Orleans, February 16th.—Today, while Gov-

ernor Packard was seated in his chair at his office,

surrounded by half a dozen callers, he was suddenly

approached by one of the parties who, drawing a pi-

istol and leveling it at Packard's head, pulled the trig-

ger. At that very instant Packard struck the weapon

down and simultaneously with the movement the

weapon exploded and the shot struck Packard in the

knee. Then Packard closed with the man and threw

him to the floor. Enquiry being made the fact that

Weldon, the young man who made an attempt on

Packard's life, is the son of Rev. C. F. Weldon, a

highly respected Lutheran clergyman of West Phila-

delphia. The general opinion is that Weldon is a

monomaniac, a second Wilkes Booth in temperament.

All desire a thorough investigation; but the democ-

rats are confident that politicians of their party

will not be involved.

New Orleans, February 16th.—This afternoon

Weldon was formally arraigned in his room on a

charge of assaulting Packard with a deadly weapon,

with intent to kill. He pleaded guilty. Weldon's

physician says he cannot state what will be the re-

sult of his injuries.

Berlin, February 15th.—Semi-official journals de-

clare that any serious variance which may have ex-

isted recently between Germany and France have

passed away, as France has discontinued her efforts

to form an alliance with Russia.

London, February 15th.—The Standard's cor-

respondent at Braila reports an interview with Mid-

hat Pasha, in the course of which the latter ex-

pressed the opinion that there would be no war.

A Vienna correspondent says: A letter from Jas-

sey states that the Roumanian representatives about

have informed the various Governments that Rou-

mania, not having been able to secure the protection

of the Powers for her neutrality, could not help

concluding a convention permitting the passage of

Russian troops through her territory under certain

conditions. Roumania would not grant the Turks

the same privilege.

Paris, February 15th.—Thirty corpses, frightfully

mutilated, have so far been recovered from the com-

mune at Gruescove. A terrible boiler explosion oc-

curred at the Barrois Steel Works, in St. Etienne.

Several workmen were killed and many badly in-

jured.

London, February 16th.—The Times' dispatch

from Belgrade says it is believed there that the Porte

will not claim arrears of tribute from Serbia if a

peace is concluded. The impression is gaining that

Russia will take no further interest in Serbian affairs.

Peace would be virtually insured but for the influ-

ence of the Pan-Slavic Societies and the conviction

of the Cabinet that peace would result in its

overthrow.

The first great ball was given at the Elvess lately.

Great preparations seem to have been made for it.

It is said that 21,000 applications were made, and

5,000 invitations given. The ordinary drawing-rooms

were increased by supplementary ones. The ball

received peculiar attention, and champagne

flowed freely. The Marshall and Neumeck Mac-

Mahon had about 4,000 or 5,000 guests, from nine

in the evening till midnight.

London, February 17th.—The Times' Vienna de-

spatch mentions reports representing that a struggle

between the Palace and Popular parties is proceed-

ing in Constantinople, which, if the Popular party is

successful, will result in Midhat Pasha's recall, rumors

of the approach of which even are already rife.

The Standard's special from Berlin says that a

coup d'etat is daily expected at Constantinople.

Steamers are anchored before the Palace, ready to

aid the Sultan's escape.

The Times' despatch from Belgrade says a rumor

is current that the Serbian Delegation has failed in

its journey, on account of disturbances in Constani-

nople.

The Berlin correspondent reports that the gar-

rison of Constantinople is being reinforced by Le-

banian regiments, which are supposed to be ignorant

of recent events.

London, February 16th.—Midhat Pasha has

arrived at Naples. The Italian announces that he

received an important communication from the Sultan.

The Italian says it also appears that Midhat will

be recalled to Constantinople, in consequence of En-

gland's advice; but it is not known whether he will

be reappointed Grand Vizier.

The Czar holds that war is needless, because the

fall of Midhat Pasha marks the commencement of

the state of anarchy which will eventually compel

Europe to interfere. General Ignatieff supports this

view. The idea among the peace party is that the

Powers, by answering the Russian circular, might

enable Russia to withdraw and await the result of

Turkish efforts at reform, by publicly renouncing

the sacrifices which she has made on behalf of the

Eastern Christians.

News Items.

The number of newspapers in the United States is

8,139. England and Ireland have about 2,000.

France, about 1,000 and Germany, about 900.

This year San Francisco receives from the vine-

yards of California 60,000 boxes of first quality

raisins, fully equal to the best put up in Spain.

Last year the sales were 20,000.

About 1,000 pieces of old pottery dug up in Mis-

souri, and supposed to be nearly 2,000 years old were

recently sent to the Peabody Museum of Yale College.

The salmon product in the Columbia river the past

season is 40,000,000 pounds. Over \$3,000,000 have